

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH

April 20, 2004

The Governor's Blue Ribbon Fire Commission, the state panel created to examine the wildfires that occurred in Southern California last fall, recently issued their final report. The report provided over 48 recommendations about how local fire agencies can improve the safety of the communities they serve. However, critics of the report state that enough attention was not focused on fire prevention. Furthermore, the report states that "conflicting public policy mandates and lengthy bureaucratic administrative procedures" are the most significant barriers to reducing the threat of wildland fires. Of the several counties that experienced fires last fall, Los Angeles County suffered the least amount of damage. In spite of this, Los Angeles County is at great risk for damage and loss as a result of future wildfires.

Therefore, it is imperative that Los Angeles County look at the recommendations in the report to determine what measures Los Angeles County already has in place and what areas the County needs to improve in. Furthermore, the County needs to focus on fire prevention and ensuring that any conflicting policy mandates are appropriately dealt with.

(MORE)

MOTION

MOLINA	_____
BURKE	_____
YAROSLAVSKY	_____
ANTONOVICH	_____
KNABE	_____

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that this Board of Supervisors direct the Los Angeles County

Fire Chief to provide a report back to this Board in 45 days regarding:

1. The Blue Ribbon Commission's recommendations;
2. The status of the bark beetle and other infestations or tree diseases in Los Angeles County that create an increased fire risk;
3. The Fire Department's plan to address any conflicting policy mandates.

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MDA:jp